

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of reproducing a developing apparatus detachably attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus main body and for developing a latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, said developing apparatus having a developing member for developing said latent image formed on said electrophotographic photosensitive member, a developer container having a developer containing part containing therein a developer to be used by said developing member, and provided with a developer supplying opening for supplying the developer contained in said developer containing part to said developing member, a supporting member provided on a lengthwise end portion of said developing apparatus for supporting said developing member, and a developing frame body provided with a developer passing opening for passing therethrough the developer supplied from said developer supplying opening, and having a joint portion to be joined to said developer container, and a mounting portion for mounting said supporting member, the method comprising:
  - a supporting member removing step of removing said supporting member from said developing frame body;

a developing frame body separating step of separating said developer container and said developing frame body from each other in said joint portion, and at which at least a portion of said mounting portion is removed when said developer container and said developing frame body are separated from each other;

a sticking step of sticking a seal member for closing said developer supplying opening provided in said developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step;

a developer refilling step of refilling said developer containing part provided in said developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step with the developer;

a developing frame body coupling step of coupling said developer container and said developing frame body separated at said developing frame body separating step together after said sticking step;

and

a supporting member attaching step of attaching said supporting member removed at said removing step onto at least one of said developer container and said developing frame body by the use of a coupling member.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said

developing frame body is joined to said developer  
container in said joint portion by ultrasonic welding,  
and at said developing frame body separating step,  
said developer container and said developing frame  
5 body are separated from each other by the use of a  
cutter.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said  
developing frame body is joined to said developer  
10 container in said joint portion by ultrasonic welding,  
and at said developing frame body separating step,  
said developer container and said developing frame  
body are separated from each other by the use of a  
laser.

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4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein at  
said supporting member attaching step, said coupling  
member is mounted with said supporting member and  
said developing frame body sandwiched thereby.

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5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein at  
said supporting member attaching step, said coupling  
member is mounted with said supporting member and  
said developer container sandwiched thereby.

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6. A method according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein  
said coupling member is constituted by a U-shaped

spring material.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein said coupling member is constituted by a plate spring  
5 material.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said mounting portion is a boss having a screw hole for attaching said supporting member by a screw, and at  
10 said developing frame body separating step, a portion of said boss is removed.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said supporting member has driving force transmitting  
15 means for transmitting a driving force to said developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, said supporting member is removed from said developing frame body while holding said driving force transmitting means, and at said supporting  
20 member attaching step, said supporting member is attached onto said developing frame body while holding said driving force transmitting means.

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said  
25 supporting member has a developing bias contact for contacting with said developing member and supplying a voltage to said developing member, and at said

supporting member removing step, said supporting member is removed from said developing frame body while holding said developing bias contact, and at said supporting member attaching step, said  
5 supporting member is attached onto said developing frame body while holding said developing bias contact.

11. A method of reproducing a process cartridge detachably attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus main body, said process cartridge  
10 having a developing member for developing a latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, said electrophotographic photosensitive member, a developer container having a developer  
15 containing part containing therein a developer to be used by said developing member, and provided with a developer supplying opening for supplying the developer contained in said developer containing part to said developing member, a supporting member  
20 provided on a lengthwise end portion of said process cartridge for supporting said developing member, and a developing frame body provided with a developer passing opening for passing therethrough the developer supplied from said developer supplying  
25 opening, and having a joint portion to be joined to said developer container, and a mounting portion for mounting said supporting member, the method

comprising:

a supporting member removing step of removing said supporting member from said developing frame body;

5 a developing frame body separating step of separating said developer container and said developing frame body from each other in said joint portion, and at which at least a portion of said mounting portion is removed when said developer  
10 container and said developing frame body are separated from each other;

a sticking step of sticking a seal member for closing the developer supplying opening provided in the developer container separated at said developing  
15 frame body separating step;

a developer refilling step of refilling the developer containing part provided in the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step with the developer;

20 a developing frame body coupling step of coupling said developer container and the developing frame body separated at said developing frame body separating step together after said sticking step; and

25 a supporting member attaching step of attaching the supporting member removed at said removing step onto at least one of said developer container and

said developing frame body by the use of a coupling member after said developing frame body coupling step.

12. A method according to Claim 11, wherein  
5 said developing frame body is joined to said developer container in said joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, said developer container and said developing frame body are separated from each other  
10 by the use of a cutter.

13. A method according to Claim 11, wherein said developing frame body is joined to said developer container in said joint portion by  
15 ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, said developer container and said developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a laser.

20 14. A method according to Claim 11, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, said coupling member is mounted with said supporting member and said developing frame body sandwiched thereby.

25 15. A method according to Claim 11, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, said coupling member is mounted with said supporting member and

said developer container sandwiched thereby.

16. A method according to Claim 14 or 15,  
wherein said coupling member is constituted by a U-  
5 shaped spring material.

17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein  
said coupling member is constituted by a plate spring  
material.

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18. A method according to Claim 11, wherein  
said mounting portion is a boss having a screw hole  
for attaching said supporting member by a screw, and  
at said developing frame body separating step, a  
15 portion of said boss is removed.

19. A method according to Claim 11, wherein  
said supporting member has driving force transmitting  
means for transmitting a driving force to said  
20 developing member, and at said supporting member  
removing step, said supporting member is removed from  
said developing frame body while holding said driving  
force transmitting means, and at said supporting  
member attaching step, said supporting member is  
25 attached onto said developing frame body while  
holding said driving force transmitting means.



20. A method according to Claim 11, wherein  
said supporting member has a developing bias contact  
for contacting with said developing member and  
supplying a voltage to said developing member, and at  
5 said supporting member removing step, said supporting  
member is removed from said developing frame body  
while having said developing bias contact, and at  
said supporting member attaching step, said  
supporting member is attached onto said developing  
10 frame body while holding said developing bias contact.